

Chairman's Corner: Happy Thanksgiving

By Navy Adm. Mike Mullen
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24, 2010 – As we reflect on all that we have to be thankful for during this upcoming holiday weekend, I want to express my personal thanks to our armed forces and their families. Their profound commitment — and sacrifice — continues to inspire.

It is also fitting that November is Military Family Appreciation Month. Quite simply, without our families, our military would not be capable of all they do during this extraordinary time in our Nation's history. To all of our family members, we thank you for your service. You make a difference every day, and we are strengthened by your support, your resilience, and your love of your military serviceman or woman.

Sadly, there are families for whom the Thanksgiving table will never be made whole again. For those families whose loved ones have made the ultimate sacrifice, we are mindful of your loss and our solemn obligation to stand by you. We also remember that other families have seen their warriors return with wounds, both visible and invisible. Theirs will also be a particularly poignant holiday and I ask every American to keep them — and our wounded warriors — in your thoughts and prayers.

Despite these challenges, we must never lose sight of the fact that Thanksgiving celebrates the blessings our Nation harvests through the hardships we endure together. From colonists seeking a better life in the New World to today's efforts to secure a better future for our children and grandchildren, Americans have always weathered the tough times with determination and a conviction that brighter days remain ahead.

As we gather to give thanks as a Nation, the Joint Chiefs and I offer our deepest appreciation and gratitude to our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coastguardsmen and our incredible military families. No matter where you are or how you serve, may you have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

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